

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /054 W
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O R 280959Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6484
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE BEL
COMUSFORAZ

UNCLAS LISBON 5589

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJ: EANES DISMISSES SOARES

REF: LISBON 5578

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EANES DISMISSED MARIO SOARES AS PRIME
MINISTER LATE JULY 27 AND ASKED THE SOARES GOVERNMENT TO
REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE.
EANES IS TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS JULY 28 WITH THE POLITICAL
PARTIES ON FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY

1. EANES DISMISSES SOARES: PRESIDENT EANES ISSUED A
STATEMENT JULY 27 ANNOUNCING THAT:
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-- HE HAD DISMISSED MARIO SOARES AS PRIME MINISTER
DUE TO THE RUPTURE OF THE PS-CDS ACCORD ON WHICH THE
GOVERNMENT'S PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY WAS BASED;

-- THE NEED TO ASSURE CONTINUITY REQUIRES THE MEMBERS OF
THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL A NEW

GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE;

-- HE WOULD BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES JULY 28
TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT AND ADDRESS THE COUNTRY SHORTLY.

2. SOARES QUESTIONS TRANSITION ROLE: AFTER BEING RELIEVED
AS PRIME MINISTER, MARIO SOARES TOLD THE PRESS THAT A DIS-
MISSED PRIME MINISTER, AS OPPOSED TO ONE WHO RESIGNS,
SHOULD LEAVE HIS POSITION IMMEDIATELY. SOARES SAID LATER,
HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE AS PRIME MINISTER UNTIL
EANES'S DISMISSAL DECREE WAS PUBLISHED. THE CDS ANNOUNCED THAT
ITS CABINET MEMBERS WOULD STAY ON UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT
TOOK OFFICE.

3. CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTIFICATION: EANES CITED FOUR
CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS IN HIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT AND
CALLED IN A TEAM OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYERS TO CONFIRM HIS
INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION REGARDING DISMISSAL
OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT.
CARLOS MOTA PINTO, JORGE MIRANDA, AND MIGUEL GALVAO TELES
AGREED THE PRESIDENT COULD DISMISS THE PRIME MINISTER AND
ASK THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN IN PLACE ON AN INTERIM
BASIS.

BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

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